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\*Important story at this spot

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Monday, September 19, 2005**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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Published September 19, 2005  
[ From the Lansing State Journal ]

## **Local Hurricane Katrina efforts need cots, pillows, socks, funds**

Lansing State Journal

### **How to help**

- American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or (800) HELP-NOW (435-7669).
- Salvation Army: [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org) or call (800) SAL-ARMY (725-2769).
- The Humane Society of the United States: [www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org) or (888) 259-5431

### **Local efforts**

Many agencies, businesses and organizations - too many to list - are acting as collection sites for donated items and money. Here's a sampling of local fundraisers and requests for help:

### **Collection and distribution**

- St. Vincent Catholic Charities, which is spearheading the relocation efforts locally, needs the following items: small appliances; cleaning supplies; kitchen supplies; hygiene products; and tables, chairs, living room furniture and double beds. No more toys are needed. To donate items, or to offer jobs or housing for evacuees, call 323-4734. Items also may be taken to the agency, 2800 W. Willow St. in Lansing from 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays.
- Katrina Response Distribution Center, 6301 Lansing Road, is collecting the following new items: paper products, cots/air mattresses, bottled water, linens, baby care products, toiletries, laundry and dish soap, pillows, socks, T-shirts and underwear. No used items. Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays. Info: 322-0006 or [reliefcenter@comcast.net](mailto:reliefcenter@comcast.net).

### **For evacuees**

- To volunteer for the adopt-a-family program, which will link evacuees to residents who can help them settle in the area: Central United Methodist Church, 485-9477.
- To donate to a response fund for evacuees' needs in Lansing set up by the Capital Area United Way: 337-8211.

### **Fundraisers**

The following events will raise money for evacuees in Lansing, the American Red Cross or other hurricane relief efforts:

- "On One Accord-Uniting to Provide" is a benefit concert hosted by Mizz Reality and Faith United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1, at the church, 4301 S. Waverly Road. Free-will offering, personal care items, air mattresses and cots will be accepted. Info: 719-8336.
- Lansing Tennis Classic will be held from Oct. 7 to Oct. 9 at Everett High School. Entry fee is \$20 for singles, \$15 per person for doubles. Registration and info: Brian Sullivan, 290-5322.

### **Send us your plans**

- Contact Lansing State Journal at 377-1112 or [metro@lsj.com](mailto:metro@lsj.com), or fax information to 377-1298.

September 18, 2005

## **Local charities, state hope feds pay relief costs**

### **Millions are spent in effort; few know what is covered**

By Stacey Range  
Lansing State Journal

Hurricane Katrina's evacuees are settled in apartments. Displaced children are in class at local schools. And some adults have started new jobs.

With immediate needs met, now comes phase two: How to pay for the millions of dollars spent by the already cash-strapped Michigan and local agencies to take in, shelter and clothe the nearly 2,000 hurricane survivors who have made the Great Lakes state their temporary home.

"We haven't spent much time thinking about where the money will come from," said Cheval Breggins, spokesman for St. Vincent Catholic Charities, the agency leading the Lansing area's relocation efforts. "This is our mission. It's what we do. We have to have faith that everything else will come later."

No one knows exactly how much has been spent. Few even have estimates thus far.

State lawmakers two weeks ago authorized \$6 million in spending to help relief efforts in the disaster area. Half of the funding was set aside to allow for the deployment of Michigan National Guard troops to the Gulf Coast region. The rest went to the Michigan State Police to help in the affected areas.

Locally, St. Vincent Catholic Charities is expected to be the biggest spender. Breggins estimated that the nonprofit, which had settled 84 evacuees in the Lansing area as of Friday, has spent an estimated \$400,000 on relocation efforts.

Like most state and local agencies, St. Vincent Catholic Charities is putting its faith in the federal government to bail it out.

But it's unclear exactly which expenses will be covered.

President Bush on Thursday announced a plan to reimburse states for most of the costs incurred from taking in evacuees. Included in the plan is \$1.9 billion to pay back states for educating displaced students and a 100 percent reimbursement for the cost of health care.

The U.S. House last week approved and the Senate is expected to act quickly on a bill that would pay states for welfare benefits provided to Katrina victims who have relocated to those states. Those funds could go a long way for states such as Michigan, which is in its fifth year of cutting services as a result of a stagnant economy.

"We understand very clearly that everybody's budget is strapped tight right now and these efforts are putting an even greater strain on them," said Joel Pepper, Michigan's coordinating officer for this disaster and a hazard mitigation officer with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division.

Agencies across the state are only now starting to calculate the costs of their relief efforts. A series of statewide meetings began last week to brief cities, counties and nonprofit groups on how to get reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Lansing's meeting is scheduled for Monday, Pepper said.

Susan Hull, director of the Ingham County Department of Human Services, said she would seek reimbursement, chiefly for staff overtime.

She wasn't sure last week how much that might total but said her workers have been busy helping evacuees apply for Medicaid, welfare, food stamps and disaster unemployment insurance as well as helping them find housing, transportation and mentor families.

Hull also said she's hoping to soon learn whether the federal government will reimburse local landlords, many of whom have waived the first month of rent and security deposits for hurricane survivors.

One oddity of the hurricane reimbursements is that FEMA has lifted its usual cap of \$5 million per state per disaster, Pepper said. It also has agreed to pick up 100 percent of the cost rather than the typical 75 percent federal-25 percent state cut.

It could take months, though, before any checks are in the mail.

"It's a lengthy process," Pepper said. "We're going to try to work quickly."

In the meantime, local agencies say they aren't slacking in their service to local residents.

"We serve whoever walks in," said Doug Stites, president and chief executive officer of Capital Area Michigan Works, which has had about a dozen evacuees seek help finding work there.

"It doesn't matter if you're from Cheboygan or Lansing or New Orleans. We'll help."

#### **By the numbers**

- As of Friday:

\$6 million  
amount state lawmakers have authorized  
for relief efforts

\$4,400  
estimated minimum cost to St. Vincent  
Catholic Charities to relocate one person  
to Lansing

84  
hurricane evacuees have resettled in  
Lansing

2,000  
estimated hurricane evacuees have  
resettled in Michigan

Sources: Michigan Department of  
Education, St. Vincent Catholic  
Charities, Michigan State Police  
Department of Emergency Management

Contact Stacey Range at 377-1157 or [srange@lsj.com](mailto:srange@lsj.com).

Economic View

## **The Disaster Behind the Disaster: Poverty**

By DANIEL ALTMAN  
The New York Times

Published: September 18, 2005

IN the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, people watching images of poverty along the Gulf Coast may have wondered, "How many poor places like this are there in this country?" The easy answer is, quite a few.

But why poverty persists in certain areas is a complex problem, and what can be done to help isn't always clear.

The Census Bureau defines poverty using a formula based on a family's age profile and its ability to buy a standard basket of necessities. Prices differ across regions, meaning that a family just above the poverty line and living in, say, San Diego may have a harder time making ends meet than one that is just below that line and living in Pascagoula, Miss. Also, not everyone who is poor at one point in a year is poor for the whole year.

Accepting the Census Bureau's measure, there were about 37 million poor people in the United States last year - about one of every eight Americans. The share is only slightly higher in rural areas than in urban areas, according to the Agriculture Department, and these figures have been converging over time.

Poverty tends to be concentrated in certain places, some of which, like Appalachia, are very large; others are no bigger than a few city blocks. To fight poverty, one has to understand its source. Were these places always poor? Did they become collecting bowls for poor people? Or do they make people poor?

"The answer is all of the above," said Rebecca M. Blank, dean of the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. Some regions, like Appalachia, have been poor for so long because of well-known historical and geographical factors, she said. Some cities, too, have been victims of long-term trends, like the decline in manufacturing in the Midwest.

In rural areas, the most persistent poverty - above 20 percent of the population for the last four censuses, dating back to 1970 - has been concentrated in a few swaths of the country. The largest section stretches in two directions - from northwestern Louisiana, up the Mississippi and east to North Carolina. The other concentrations are in central Alaska, around the Four Corners area of

the Southwest, in southern Texas along the Mexican border, and in the heart of the Appalachians in eastern Kentucky.

Appalachia's problems are well documented. The region isn't flat enough to make farming very profitable, especially when competing with the Plains states, and it's too far from big cities to easily attract businesses.

In the face of such persistent poverty, people often move to seek their fortunes elsewhere - most often in cities. Cities that have jobs to offer can become magnets for the poor, who move in from around the country or around the world, Professor Blank said.

But when cities lose jobs, large portions of their populations can quickly slip into indigence.

Detroit, El Paso, Miami and Newark were the biggest centers for urban poverty in 2004. More than 28 percent of their populations lived in poverty - more than twice the national rate. Orleans Parish of Louisiana came in at 23 percent that year.

While upswings in the economic cycle may reduce poverty as a whole, pockets in some urban neighborhoods have been intractable. "We've got answers in the margins, but I can't say anyone has absolutely solved that problem," Professor Blank said. Persuading businesses to operate in poor areas isn't easy, especially when the local populations lack education and skills. And it's hard for people to gain education and skills when there are no jobs. It's a Catch-22.

The situation is similar in rural areas. The people most likely to leave are those for whom the payoff is biggest. When the most highly skilled workers migrate to the cities, rural poverty deepens.

The question is: Should the government try to improve conditions in persistently poor areas, or should it simply wait for - or even encourage - the population to move away?

"The notion that you're going to move out huge numbers of people easily is just absurd," said David T. Ellwood, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. "Instead, what you can do is do your best to try and improve the opportunities for people to move up and move out." Improving education is one way to provide those opportunities, Professor Ellwood said. Beyond that, different strategies can come into play for urban and rural areas. In cities, the way forward may be to match neighborhoods with businesses for which an urban location is a plus, he said, and then to add industry-specific training programs to give local workers the necessary skills. In rural areas, the savior could be the changing labor market. With growth in the core labor force flattening out in the next couple of decades, and communications technology radically improving, pools of unused workers in remote places could become hot properties, Professor Ellwood predicted.

"The question is, can you find a set of activities where having a ready source of labor, where labor costs aren't very high and there's a real opportunity to do some industry-specific training that can make the area work?" he asked. With time, he said, "there's a very reasonable chance that some of these areas will begin to look like some of the formerly poor areas in the South that are now booming."

That may not offer consolation to people who are poor or hungry now. But there are too many potential solutions to give up on poor areas.

# The Other America, 2005

The Washington Post

Monday, September 19, 2005; Page A16

*"Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope -- some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity."*

*-- President Lyndon B. Johnson,  
State of the Union address, 1964*

HURRICANE KATRINA, and the accompanying coverage of the overwhelmingly poor and black evacuees hit hardest by the storm, has rekindled the national debate about poverty and race, offering a sobering reminder, four decades later, that President Lyndon B. Johnson's "unconditional war on poverty in America" is far from over. That's valuable: Poverty has hardly been a front-burner issue for years, and for President Bush to speak, as he has in recent days, of the nation's "legacy of inequality" and its "duty to confront this poverty with bold action" is a welcome development. But a broad look at poverty in America presents a more complex picture than the bleak images of those most devastated by Katrina would suggest. It shows significant, and in some cases impressive, progress, blended with the disheartening persistence of poverty among certain populations.

Indeed, the image of hard-core inner-city poverty evoked by the Katrina victims may be misleading. The share of the poor living in neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty (40 percent or more) fell dramatically during the 1990s. Though many Americans hover at the edges of poverty, the number who are permanently trapped is surprisingly low: In the four years between 1996 and 1999, one Census Bureau study found, only 2 percent of the population was poor every month for two years or more -- but 34 percent of the population experienced poverty for at least two months. The overall poverty rate fell from 19 percent in 1964 to 12.7 percent last year, though most of that decline occurred during the first decade. Since 1999, the rate has been edging steadily, and disturbingly, upward.

At the same time, the creation and expansion of government programs such as food stamps, Medicaid, housing subsidies and the earned-income tax credit have made the America of 2005 a far less harsh place for the poor than the America of 1964. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities concluded in a recent report that such programs "cut the number of poor Americans nearly in half . . . and dramatically reduced the severity of poverty for those who remain poor." Thanks in large part to government programs such as Social Security, the problem of poverty has been greatly ameliorated among the elderly -- falling last year to an all-time low (9.8 percent). By contrast, the poverty rate among children is higher now (17.8 percent) than it was in the 1970s. That is a matter of serious concern, though one that's mitigated to some extent by the availability of health care and nutrition assistance.

Poverty among African Americans is both greatly improved since Johnson's pledge and intolerably widespread. In 1959, the first year poverty statistics were collected, 55 percent of African Americans were below the poverty line. By 1966, that had fallen to 41.8 percent; it was 24.7 percent last year. (The poverty rate among Hispanics was lower, 21.9 percent.) Some of the

most dramatic gains have been made in recent years by black women. Before 1994, well over half of households headed by African American women lived beneath the poverty level; that number has since dropped below 40 percent.

Still, that number remains unacceptable. Unacceptable, too, is the fact that that one-fourth of American blacks, and one in three black children, are living in poverty in 2005.



# The Media Discover the Poor

By Howard Kurtz Washington Post Staff Writer

Monday, September 19, 2005; 8:18 AM

The fact that most of those left behind in the New Orleans flood were poor and black is being treated by the press as a stunning revelation--"A National Shame," as Newsweek's cover put it. But not exactly a national secret.

"Apparently none of these ace reporters has ever set foot in Washington's Anacostia district, or South Central Los Angeles, or the trailer parks of rural Arkansas," writes Los Angeles Times columnist Rosa Brooks.

A Sept. 12 Washington Post story was headlined "Katrina Pushes Issues of Race and Poverty at Bush." An equally apt headline would have been, "Katrina Pushes Issues of Race and Poverty at a Media Establishment That Has Largely Ignored Them."

A database search of The Post for the past decade found one story that prominently mentioned the poor of New Orleans: a 2002 piece on a campaign to boost the minimum wage that cited the city's "40 percent poverty level." Far more typical of the Mardi Gras media was a 1995 Post story on how "the city's black neighborhoods come alive" with Sunday parades in the fall.

New York Times ombudsman Byron Calame found a similar record at his newspaper, unearthing only two articles about New Orleans in 10 years that "contained a few paragraphs on poverty and race."

The mounting problems of the urban poor, from unemployment to high infant mortality to family dysfunction, were long ago reduced to a blip on the media radar screen. Politicians rarely talked about them--John Edwards, with his "Two Americas" speech in last year's presidential campaign, was an exception--and reporters rarely prodded them on the subject. Bill Clinton spoke of publishing a book on race while he was president but never finished the project.

Newspapers and magazines, meanwhile, have been chasing suburban readers who appeal to upscale advertisers. The poor, whether in New Orleans or Newark, were, well, very '60s.

There have been exceptions, of course, certain journalists who have specialized in scrutinizing the problems of the underclass and efforts to alleviate them. And certainly the media have covered the policy debates over welfare reform, subsidized housing, school vouchers, affirmative action, out-of-wedlock births and other issues that affect the poor. But poor people themselves were relegated to an occasional walk-on role--until the levees broke. "TV dislikes poor people," says Newsweek, because they're a "downer" and bad for ratings.

"Katrina suddenly made America's invisible poor very visible," writes Chicago Tribune columnist Clarence Page. Brooks, an associate professor at the University of Virginia's law school, wrote in her Los Angeles Times column: "It took the destruction of a major American city for the media to notice the Third World here at home."

But why is that? This is not a story, like whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, that was difficult to get at. But journalists rarely venture into impoverished neighborhoods these days, except for quick-hit features. When a woman from one of these communities goes missing, it doesn't attain the status of a Natalee Holloway drama.

Covering the 37 million people who live below the poverty line--the percentage has increased for four straight years--is not as easy as, say, covering advocates who claim to speak on their behalf.

Many of the poor are wary of intrusive journalists, don't carry cell phones and don't speak in snappy sound bites. The same goes for race: It is far easier to write about the politics of race-- President Bush appointing the first two black secretaries of state, or refusing to speak to the NAACP--than to probe the impact of federal policies on the lives of minorities. And the problems of generations of low-income broken families who seem unable to escape the cycle of poverty can be depressing fare.

The last time race and poverty became a front-burner media issue was after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, but that quickly faded. As the country begins the long slog of rebuilding New Orleans, with many of its poor scattered in other states, how long before the press moves on to more scintillating subjects?

*Footnote:* The media have had a fine old time ridiculing Michael Brown, who quit last week as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as a former Arabian horse expert with no background for the job. And as The Post reported, five of the agency's top eight officials came to their posts with virtually no experience in handling disasters. But why did journalists never get around to pointing this out in the past? Why are agencies such as FEMA never covered until disaster strikes? A database search found only one story and an editorial about Brown's 2003 nomination as FEMA chief. Both were in the Denver Post -- Brown is from Colorado -- and both described him as experienced because of his tenure as the agency's No. 2 official.

Beginning today, it will cost you to read Maureen Dowd, Tom Friedman, Paul Krugman, David Brooks and 18 other New York Times columnists online--\$49.95 a year, to be exact.

But the executive in charge of the move--and perhaps those at other news organizations giving away their material online--hopes the Times can demonstrate, in a traditionally free arena, that money can be made by charging for premium content.

"It should work, but this is the Internet and you're always experimenting and testing," says Martin Nisenholtz, a Times Co. senior vice president. He believes that as many as 200,000 people may sign up--but also expects a drop-off in overall traffic because "we're gating one of the most popular parts of the site."

Times Select will offer video (of columnist debates, for example), expanded pieces from editorial writers and access to archives (eventually back to 1851). Among the opinion, business, local and sports columnists, Frank Rich will field questions in a blog-like forum and John Tierney will host a book club. But what about their diminished audience? "They may have mixed feelings about the fact they won't be read as much around the world, and I don't blame them," Nisenholtz says.

The Wall Street Journal made news Saturday--by publishing a paper.

The Journal's Weekend Edition--which is going to all current subscribers at no extra charge and is available on newsstands for \$1.50 -- represents a gamble that the weekday business bible can lighten its image and attract sufficient advertising.

The front page is quite Journal-like, but with a consumer flavor--stories on Wal-Mart trying to become trendy and FAO Schwarz looking for hot new toys--plus an oversize feature on a Colorado chef trying to help tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. The Money & Investing section forgoes the usual fare on hedge funds and derivatives for pieces on futures contracts that protect the value of your home and the advantages of using credit cards for cash rewards, not airline miles.

The biggest departure is the Pursuits section, whose centerpiece is "Chefs Gone Wild" -- a stomach-churning report on such "experimental" foods as rabbit pizza, mustard ice cream and

raw-lamb meatballs. Other pursuits include Disney's Hong Kong park, designer outlet stores, pre-college stress, Wynton Marsalis's favorite jazz, Notre Dame football and women's bikes--all "tailored to appeal to influential business decision-makers," as a Journal release puts it.

Translation: Folks with plenty of disposable cash.

A decade ago, such pieces would have seemed out of character. But as the weekday paper has added Personal Journal and Weekend Journal, it has discovered there is life--and journalism--away from the corporate office.

What, a glittering career as a rock impresario and \$4 billion in the bank aren't enough for David Geffen?

Now, apparently, he wants to buy the Los Angeles Times.

Small problem: Tribune Co., which bought the paper and the rest of Times Mirror five years ago for \$8 billion, says it's not for sale.

The Times reports that Geffen expressed his interest over the summer in a meeting with Tribune Co. chief executive

Dennis FitzSimons, only to be told no dice. Geffen, who promoted the Eagles and other music acts and helped found the DreamWorks SKG movie studio, wouldn't comment to the paper he seems to covet. Maybe he just wants to stop all those Times stories on the battle for public access to the beach at his Malibu estate.

Note to other rich guys: While circulation has slid from 1,018,000 to 902,000 since the Tribune purchase, the Times estimates that it's worth about \$3 billion.

Moving right along . . . The aforementioned Byron Calame, the NYT's public editor, is blowing his whistle on one of the paper's top columnists:

"Two weeks have passed since my previous post spelled out the errors made by columnist Paul Krugman in writing about news media recounts of the 2000 Florida vote for president.

"Mr. Krugman still hasn't been required to comply with the policy by publishing a formal correction. Ms. Collins hasn't offered any explanation. As a result, readers of nytimes.com who simply search for 'Krugman' won't find any indication that there are uncorrected errors in the columns the query turns up. Nor will those who access Mr. Krugman's columns in an electronic database such as Nexis or Factiva. Corrections would have been appended in all those places if Mr. Krugman had complied with [Editorial Page Editor Gail] Collins' policy and corrected the errors in his column in the print version of The Times . . .

"All Mr. Krugman has offered so far is a faux correction. Each Op-Ed columnist has a page in nytimes.com that includes his or her past columns and biographical information. Mr. Krugman has been allowed to post a note on his page that acknowledges his initial error, but doesn't explain that his initial correction of that error was also wrong. Since it hasn't been officially published, that posting doesn't cause the correction to be appended to any of the relevant columns."

The issue: "The problem was this sentence: 'Two different news media consortiums reviewed Florida's ballots; both found that a full manual recount would have given the election to Mr. [Al] Gore.' It was basically a sloppy generalization about a vote count that remains a hot-button issue for many readers. It turns out that both of the news media consortiums did statewide manual recounts with varying standards, and some of those scenarios made George W. Bush the winner."

We anxiously await Mr. Krugman's response to Mr. Calame!

Proof that the liberal media don't all think alike: The Washington Post endorses John Roberts ("overwhelmingly well-qualified, possesses an unusually keen legal mind and practices a collegiality of the type an effective chief justice must have"), while the New York Times urges a

no vote ("not because they know he does not have the qualities to be an excellent chief justice, but because he has not met the very heavy burden of proving that he does").

The Huffington Post is well-wired in places like Aspen, which is how it picked up this cocktail chat:

"Karl Rove, President Bush's top political advisor and deputy White House chief of staff, spoke at businessman Teddy Forstmann's annual off the record gathering in Aspen, Colorado this weekend. Here is what Rove had to say that the press wasn't allowed to report on.

"On Katrina: The only mistake we made with Katrina was not overriding the local government . .

"On The Anti-War Movement: Cindy Sheehan is a clown.

There is no real anti-war movement. No serious politician, with anything to do with anything, would show his face at an anti-war rally . . .

"On Bush's Low Poll Numbers: We have not been good at explaining the success in Iraq. Polls go up and down and don't mean anything . . .

"On Iraq: There has been a big difference in the region. Iraq will transform the Middle East . . .

"On Judy Miller And Plamegate: Judy Miller is in jail for reasons I don't really understand . . . "

Jeff Jarvis makes the perfectly reasonable point that you shouldn't need a printing plant to deserve a prize:

"The Times-Picayune and Nola.com should win a Pulitzer for their journalism, which happened to be distributed online and could not be distributed in print after Katrina, Mark Glaser did a good act of reporting and asked the Pulitzer committee about whether work online could win their prize.

"Now before you read their reply, don't you think their answer should have been: 'Well, sure, if it's great journalism, why should we care whether it's on paperhellip especially these days. We want to encourage great journalism however it happens.' That's what they should have said.

Here's what they said, as Glaser reports:

*"As for a possible Pulitzer, the board has considered online presentations as part of an entry for the Public Service Award before. In this case, however, it was print journalism posted online with the absence of a print newspaper due to the hurricane damage. Sig Gissler, administrator of the Pulitzers and a journalism professor at Columbia University, told me the Pulitzer board would have to consider any exceptions.*

*"As I understand it, the Times-Picayune, at some point, produced a paper as well as online coverage,' Gissler said via e-mail. 'So, in theory, it could submit an entry reflecting both components. Under our rules, it is up to the Board to modify the rules or to make one-time exceptions to the rules. However, I do not want to speculate on what the Board may or may not do in a specific case. It meets again in November, its regular business meeting.'*

"Don't you just want to take them by the shoulders and shake hard and shout in their faces: Wake up! Your audience is online and you're not! You're going to die with your audience! You are not serving the public where the public is! You're fiddling with your rules and nobody but you gives a damn!"

Josh Marshall picks up on a tantalizing memo from the Jackson, Miss., Clarion-Ledger:

"Federal officials appear to be seeking proof to blame the flood of New Orleans on environmental groups, documents show.

"The Clarion-Ledger has obtained a copy of an internal e-mail the U.S. Department of Justice sent out this week to various U.S. attorneys' offices: 'Has your district defended any cases on behalf of the (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers against claims brought by environmental groups

*seeking to block or otherwise impede the Corps work on the levees protecting New Orleans? If so, please describe the case and the outcome of the litigation .'*

"Who sent out this email? And who was going to use it?

Needed for analyzing new environmental law issues? Part

of the 'takings' debate? Did we mention that Karl Rove has been put in charge of the reconstruction effort?"

Laura Turner at [Liberalism Without Cynicism](#) explores the origins of Bush's New Orleans address:

"According to [David Kuznet](#) at the New Republic, it wasn't Michael Gerson who wrote the masterpiece. It was Bush's new head speechwriter, William McGurn. Just how completely phony was the speech? McGurn is a former editor of the Wall Street Journal editorial page! All that big-government-conservatism, your-government-is-there-for-you pap Bush was spouting had been penned by one of those WSJ drown-it-in-the-bathtub, government-is-the-enemy hyper-libertarians, whose ex-colleagues have, among other things, been urging Bush to use Katrina as an excuse to push school vouchers on the exiled flood victims moving into other communities!" [Cindy Sheehan](#), who has moved her media show to Louisiana, seems to getting more personal with the president:

I saw in the paper that George Bush said the recovery in the Gulf States would be 'hard work.' That's what he said about sending troops to Iraq and looking at the casualty reports everyday: 'It's hard work.' That man has never known a day of hard work in his life."

How exactly is that helping her cause?

Even the tiniest aspects of the Bush presidency are not without controversy, such as his bathroom-break note to Condi, according to [Photo District News](#)

"The white parts of the picture were overexposed, so a Reuters processor used Photoshop to burn down the note. This is a standard practice for news photos, Gary Hershorn [a Reuters news director] says, and the picture was not manipulated in any other way."

Ah, but this could be the media's Pottygate, says Matthew Sheffield at [Newsbusters](#) (dedicated to exposing liberal bias):

"Did Bush write the first part of the note? It's possible but there are several problems with that hypothesis. The first and biggest is the difference in handwriting styles. Why would Bush take the time to write in two different manners in a little note?

"The second problem is that the phrase ends with a question mark. More than likely the president, being the highest-ranking American official in the room, would tell someone to set it up, not ask if it were possible for him to go."

Where are those CBS handwriting experts when you need them?

White House Memo

## **Black Leaders Say Storm Forced Bush to Confront Issues of Race and Poverty**

By ELISABETH BUMILLER and ANNE E. KORNBLUT

Published: September 18, 2005

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17 - Hurricane Katrina has forced President Bush to confront the issues of race and poverty in a way that has shaken his presidency and altered his priorities, African-American leaders of both parties said this week.

One of the most striking developments, they said, was that while Mr. Bush still calls himself a "compassionate conservative" who sees the problems of blacks as largely economic, in the last three days he embraced civil rights language from the 1960's about "the legacy of inequality" and pledged billions of dollars to rebuild one of the poorest urban areas in America.

Many black leaders, who have newfound political leverage at the White House in the wake of the storm, cautiously applauded. But they said Mr. Bush's promises of help on housing, education, taxes and job training in two speeches - a prime-time address in New Orleans on Thursday night and remarks at a day of remembrance for storm victims at Washington's National Cathedral on Friday - were only the beginning.

"Katrina has posed a challenge to the White House and the country regarding the great divide, which is race and class in America," said the Rev. Eugene F. Rivers III, the president of the National Ten Point Leadership Foundation, a coalition that represents primarily black churches. "It's a challenge and an opportunity which can be won or lost, and ultimately it is the decision of the White House as to which way it goes."

Leaders like Mr. Rivers, a Democrat and a supporter of Mr. Bush, said the White House still had serious repair work to do among blacks after the images of the desperate and dying victims of the hurricane so shocked the nation and the world. A major first step, they said, was to include blacks in the millions of dollars in contracts to rebuild New Orleans.

"President Bush needs to ensure that we do not see racial divisions reproduced in the reconstruction effort as white millionaires get richer," Mr. Rivers said.

T. D. Jakes, the black television evangelist who delivered the sermon before Mr. Bush's speech at the National Cathedral, issued a similar warning. "I do think that African-Americans are waiting to see what this administration is going to do about this crisis," Bishop Jakes said Friday.

"If the appropriate actions are taken in an expeditious, competent way, I think then our community will re-evaluate our opinions of this administration."

But Mr. Bush, who specifically noted in his speech that the federal government's rebuilding effort would include loans to minority-owned businesses, has already drawn criticism for his administration's decision to suspend the Davis-Bacon Act, the law that requires employers to pay the local prevailing wage to construction workers on federally financed projects.

The White House rationale for the decision, announced Thursday, was not only to reduce the cost to taxpayers for the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast, estimated at as much as \$200 billion, but to open up the bidding to minority-owned businesses that have not historically contracted with the federal government.

That explanation did not satisfy critics of Mr. Bush like the Rev. Jesse Jackson. "It's a hurricane for the poor and a windfall for the rich," Mr. Jackson said after the president's speech in New Orleans. Mr. Jackson likened the structure for assistance to the region, federal financial aid managed under local control in the states, to the post-Reconstruction era that allowed segregation to take hold in the South.

At the very least, black leaders said, Hurricane Katrina set back the long-term plans of Karl Rove, Mr. Bush's chief political adviser, and Ken Mehlman, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, to bring more blacks, a longtime Democratic constituency, into the Republican fold.

Before the hurricane, their plan appeared to be working on the margins: Mr. Bush received 9 percent of the black vote in 2000 and 11 percent in 2004, an increase that Republicans attribute in part to their courting of conservative black religious leaders like Bishop Jakes and money sent to black churches and charities through a White House religion-based initiative.

Republican political strategists point out that many middle-class blacks have views on social and economic issues that are consistent with those of Republicans, even if blacks as a group have traditionally voted for Democrats.

"The fact is, there are millions of African-Americans who are conservative, who are with the Republican Party on a number of issues, and agree with us that the path to prosperity is a path based on opportunity and ownership and empowerment," Mr. Mehlman said.

Like other supporters of Mr. Bush, Mr. Mehlman said he was outraged by the charges of racism at the White House, which increased after the president's mother, Barbara Bush, said in a radio interview that many of the people she had seen while touring a Houston relocation site were faring better than before the storm hit. "So many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway, so this is working very well for them," Mrs. Bush said.

Scott McClellan, the White House press secretary, distanced Mr. Bush from his mother's comment by calling it a "personal observation," while Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the administration's most prominent African-American, vehemently rejected any suggestion that Mr. Bush would discriminate on the basis of race.

"I find it very strange to think that people would think that the president of the United States would sit deciding who ought to be helped on the basis of color, most especially this president," Ms. Rice said in an interview at The New York Times on Monday. "What evidence is there that this is the case? Why would you say such a thing?"

Some African Americans say that, remarkably, the hurricane has had the effect of pushing Mr. Bush to propose such sweeping Great Society-type programs - the president called on Thursday for an Urban Homesteading Act to provide free land for low-income storm victims - that conservative members of his own party are in an uproar about the expense. Until now, Mr. Bush's chief poverty program was the No Child Left Behind Act, an education initiative that is meant to largely benefit disadvantaged minority students.

"We've all known that there are these big pockets of isolated deprivation and disadvantage in the country," said John DiIulio, the first director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. "Everybody seems to have taken their crack at it, but certain aspects of the poverty problem are stubborn. The reality is, having everybody wake up to the problem is a good thing. I know it's fashionable in Washington to see differences, but I've always felt there's a lot more goodwill and a lot more possibility for statesmanship. This crisis I think is going to bring that out."

Whatever happens, both blacks and whites said, the hurricane has defined Mr. Bush's second term, for better or worse.

"There are usually two ways that presidents do important things," said Michael Beschloss, a presidential historian. "One is that they see an urgent need, and they bring it before the public and address it. Other times it's an incident that changes the country, and changes the presidency."



# **Baby Fatally Beaten; Mom's Ex-Boyfriend In Custody**

## ***19-Year-Old Man Faces Homicide Charges***

POSTED: 10:36 am EDT September 19, 2005

DETROIT -- A 9-month-old boy was killed in an apparent beating while spending the night with his mother's ex-boyfriend this weekend.

Police said Veshawn White was staying with Gary Love, 19, who was described as a father figure to the infant. Love brought the boy to Henry Ford Hospital Friday morning, where doctors said Veshawn was dead on arrival, according to Local 4.

An autopsy showed Veshawn died of blunt force trauma to the face and stomach, Local 4 reported.

"He had a square shape on his face, like he had been hit with something," said the infant's grandmother, Sheilita White.

White said her grandson had obviously been beaten to death. The grandmother said she cannot understand how someone could harm a baby.

"I want people to pray for my grandson," said White. "I'd appreciate it."

The White family said Love's family wanted to see Veshawn, so they allowed the infant to stay at Love's house on Buena Vista Street for a few days, Local 4 reported.

Love was arrested when he brought Veshawn to the hospital, Local 4 reported. He was arraigned Sunday on homicide charges.

A preliminary hearing for Love is scheduled for Sept. 29 at 36th District Court.

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# Man accused of beating newborn son faces charge involving another child

FLINT

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION Sunday, September 18, 2005

By Paul Janczewski [pjanczewski@flintjournal.com](mailto:pjanczewski@flintjournal.com) • 810.766.6333

A Flint man awaiting trial on a charge of physically abusing his 5-week-old son in July now faces another charge of abusing another son in 2000.

Carleton O. Grant, 24, has waived his preliminary hearing last week for the newest charge. Grant is to be arraigned Monday in Genesee Circuit Court on a charge of first-degree child abuse, a 15-year felony.

Grant faces trial Oct. 17 on the initial charge, and prosecutors may combine the two cases.

Grant was first charged for incidents involving son Jacarion.

During an earlier hearing, Flint police Sgt. Jowanne Carrigan testified that she arrested Grant at his E. Gillespie Street residence after Jacarion was admitted July 4 to Hurley Medical Center in critical condition.

Carrigan said the infant had a swollen face, bleeding on his brain in three locations, a fractured wrist and six fractured ribs.

Grant told Carrigan he has an anger problem and went too far this time with Jacarion, she said. During his tape-recorded interview, Grant showed Carrigan how he held the child and shook him, and slapped him in the head several times, raking his fingernails across the boy's face, causing several scratches.

"I was angry," he said. "I did him like this."

Grant also said he threw a baby bottle at the child, hitting him in the head, and also demonstrated how he threw the infant on a couch, Carrigan said.

He also said Jacarion is the second of his four children that he's abused in that manner, Carrigan said.

The earlier incident involved Kentrell McMillian, who was 3 when Grant allegedly abused him Nov. 25, 2000.

Police investigated, but no charges were filed.

Grant and the child's mother, Chanel McMillian, 20, had four children, including Jacarion and Kentrell.

Protective Services has removed all four from the couple, who are involved in Probate Court proceedings over neglect and loss of parental rights, according to testimony and court records. McMillian testified earlier that the couple argued late on July 3 before and after she went to a hair appointment.

She said he would not let her take Jacarion from the home until the next day, and she took the child to the hospital after noticing the injuries.

McMillian said Grant wanted her to give him money so he could flee to Atlanta.

Jacarion was released from the hospital about a week after the injuries, police said. No information was available about Kentrell's current condition.

Grant is being held in the Genesee County Jail on a \$100,000 cash bond.

# Questions swirl after toddler's drowning

THE FLINT JOURNAL , Monday, September 19, 2005

By Ron Fonger rfonger@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6317

FLUSHING TWP. - Police are saying very little about the Sept. 1 death of a toddler found in a family swimming pool, and the medical examiner is saying even less about her case.

But neighbors are wondering what happened to 20-month-old Jamie M. Vamos before she died and why her 3-year-old brother was removed from her parents' home on W. Carpenter Road the day after Jamie's death.

A social worker's petition - based on reports from a Sheriff's Department paramedic and Hurley Medical Center emergency room doctors - claims Jamie Vamos may have been sexually abused and her alleged injuries may have been recent.

An attorney for parents Steven and Kristy Vamos said their little girl simply drowned in a horrible accident. The Oakland County medical examiner's office hasn't given an opinion so far on the cause or manner of her death.

"The cause of death, I believe, was a drowning - accidental drowning. ... Anything else is ancillary and speculative at this point," said Matthew Stewart, an Owosso attorney representing the Vamoses.

Stewart would not comment on reports of possible sexual abuse in the petition to terminate parental rights. A pretrial on the petition is scheduled for Sept. 27, and Stewart said he will ask then for a jury trial.

"No parent should lose a child because the other child had an accident," Stewart said. "They (the parents) are grieving. It's not an easy process. It's not easy for anyone."

Less than 24 hours after Jamie Vamos was pronounced dead, a Department of Human Services caseworker filed the petition to take her brother away from his parents. He is being cared for by a local relative.

The request was granted by Genesee Circuit Court Judge John A. Gadola - at least until the hearing later this month, something that Stewart said was not unusual because of the death of a sibling.

Through their attorney, the Vamoses declined to comment on their situation. The couple have the right to supervised visits with their son, according to court records.

Township Police Chief Douglas Kennedy said his investigation of the girl's death remains open, but he would not discuss the case. The township is "waiting for reports and response from other people," he said.

"I'm not comfortable saying anything at all until we get some of our questions answered," Kennedy said.

The DHS petition says township police responded to the 911 call on Sept. 1, along with a private ambulance and a Sheriff's Department paramedic.

The petition says the parents of Jamie Vamos found her under the pool cover after they realized she had been missing for about 40 minutes.

Robert Gerds, a spokesman for the Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office, said a determination on Jamie Vamos' cause and manner of death are pending.

# Student Accuses School Official Of Fondling Her

## *District Places School Employee On Administrative Leave*

POSTED: 4:02 pm EDT September 16, 2005

ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- An Ann Arbor high school official has been accused of inappropriately touching a student.

Ann Arbor police said the Pioneer High School student reported the incident on Tuesday. She told police the school official fondled her at the start of the school year about two weeks ago, Local 4 reported.

Police confirmed to the *Ann Arbor News* on Friday that detectives are investigating the accusation, but would not disclose the employee's title or role with the school.

The school district has placed the official on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation. Police are working with school authorities in the case, the paper reported.

Ann Arbor Public Schools Superintendent George Fornero told Local 4 that a letter was sent home with students on Friday explaining the allegations against the employee.

The student who made the accusation is still enrolled at the school and is attending classes, the station reported.

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# Ring Tones, Cameras, Now This: Sex Is Latest Cellphone Feature

By MATT RICHTEL and MICHEL MARRIOTT  
The New York Times

Published: September 17, 2005

The cellphone, which already plays music, sends and receives e-mail and takes pictures, is adding a steamier offering: pornography.

With the advent of advanced cellular networks that deliver full-motion video from the Internet - and the latest wave of phones featuring larger screens with bright color - the pornography industry is eyeing the cellphone, like the videocassette recorder before it, as a lucrative new vehicle for distribution.

In recent months, that prospect has produced a cadre of entrepreneurs in the United States hoping to follow the lead of counterparts in Europe, where consumers already spend tens of millions of dollars a year on phone-based pornography.

The major American cellular carriers have so far been adamant in their refusal to sell pornography from the same content menus on which they sell ring tones and video games. But there are signs that they may soften their stance.

The cellular industry's major trade group is drafting ratings for mobile content - akin to those for movies or video games - signaling that phones, too, will be a subject of viewer discretion.

For now, the Web-based video available on many cellphones is crude. Images take time to load and appear grainy, and video feeds are often interrupted by inconsistent wireless signals.

But Roger Entner, a wireless industry analyst for Ovum, a market research firm, said that as use of the Internet on phones becomes easier, and as content ratings emerge, it was inevitable that phone-based pornography would become a fixture.

"It has every component that has proven conducive to the consumption of adult entertainment - privacy, easy access, and, on top of it, mobility," Mr. Entner said.

For the carriers, it is a tricky proposition. Offering pornography would stir a tempest over indecency and possible pressure from regulators or Congress. But conceding the field to third parties would leave millions of dollars on the table.

But the likelihood that pornography will be increasingly accessible by phone has children's advocacy groups mobilizing. This month, the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, a nonprofit group that seeks to promote "biblical morality," met with leaders of the wireless industry to voice concern that phones could provide minors with all-too-easy access to inappropriate material.

"The Internet hit us blindsided," said Jack Samad, a senior vice president with the group, referring to the slow reaction of children's advocacy groups to the advent of online pornography. "We are attempting to stay ahead of the curve" with regard to mobile phones, pressing cellphone carriers to give parents the ability to block access.

The Federal Communications Commission, meanwhile, has its own concerns, said David Fiske, a spokesman. "The commission takes very seriously the issue of inappropriate material reaching cellphones that are in the hands of children," he said.

Mr. Fiske declined to comment on what actions the commission might take. To some extent, though, the agency's hands are tied in that mobile phone carriers, like other telecommunications companies, are not responsible for what Internet sites consumers visit. But the carriers could be held accountable, experts said, if they take part in selling pornography to minors.

In the past, pornography has helped to drive the popularity of new technologies, including the videocassette recorder, cable television and the Web itself, and it is a source of revenue for many major media companies, including cable giants like Time Warner and Comcast, which have pay-per-view channels devoted to pornography.

Many of those in the business of pornography are not deterred by today's technical difficulties in delivering cellphone video. Harvey Kaplan, director of mobile operations for xobile.com, a company in Charlotte, N.C., that sells two-minute hard-core video clips for download over phones, said he believed that thirst for sex-related content would drive the popularity of Internet-enabled phones.

"People aren't going to go out and buy a cellphone that streams video so they can watch a trailer of a Disney movie," he said. "But they will buy that phone if they have five minutes of quiet time" viewing sexually explicit video.

Xobile started in April, and Mr. Kaplan said that each month the company was adding 6,000 customers, who pay around 44 cents to see a two-minute video clip. To use the service, a customer signs up and enters a credit card number at the company's Web site from a computer or a mobile phone.

The customer can choose to watch the clip immediately as streaming video, or download it to view later.

Another fledgling company, ohmobile.com, which began in May, offers pornographic images and plans to add video within the next month. The company is led by Jason Edwards, who for six years has operated Internet pornography sites through a parent company, Global Internet Holdings, based in Carson City, Nev.

"Adult for mobile is where adult for Internet was 10 years ago," Mr. Edwards said. He declined to say how many people had signed up for his mobile service, which typically charges \$1.95 for a still image and plans to charge around \$4 for a video clip.

Mr. Kaplan, from Xobile, said the growth of Internet-based pornography for phones let major wireless carriers benefit from the activity - through the data charges when their customers download information - without having to sponsor it.

"When you allow people access to Net by phones, the telecom companies are empowered with one of my favorite legal terms: plausible deniability," Mr. Kaplan said.

The bigger purveyors of pornography are looking to become involved, too. "We look very forward to being one of the leaders in the business here," said Steven Hirsch, founder and chairman of Vivid Entertainment, the largest maker of sexually explicit movies, noting that wireless content could earn as much as 30 percent of the company's \$100 million annual revenues. "We are perfectly positioned with the amount of content we have."

While some of Vivid's hard-core materials can be found "off network" (that is, not through the major cellphone carriers), he said his company was focusing on getting "on the deck" - available directly from the carriers' cellphone menus, as ring tones are. He said it was only a matter of time before the carriers resolved what he termed the fundamental roadblock: age verification.

"I think it's really about age verification more than anything else," he said. "I don't think it's about the content."

In England, for example, age verification is handled at the point of sale for cellphones. A buyer provides proof of age. If buyers are of the age of consent, they can stipulate that their phones have access to sexually explicit material.

Adam Zawel, an analyst with Yankee Group, said that for mobile phone users looking for content outside the carriers' own menus - directly over the Internet - the demand for pornography is already higher than for any other category.

In Europe, people spend at least \$100 million a year for pornography, from soft-core images of scantily clad models to hard-core images and some video, Mr. Zawel said.

The major carriers have said that for now they do not intend to include sexually explicit content on their menus. In a statement, for instance, Cingular Wireless said the company "does not provide adult content to its customers." But Cingular, the largest wireless company, also said it would not and could not stop people from using their phones to obtain such content directly from the Internet.

But the major carriers, like Cingular and Verizon Wireless, also note that they have protections in place - for instance, allowing Internet access to be blocked altogether on their phones.

John Walls, spokesman for CTIA, the mobile phone trade group, said that it expected to have content ratings in place early next year. Such ratings, he predicted, would include a category for people 18 or older, allowing carriers to feel more comfortable selling sex-oriented content - at least of the soft-core variety.

"If there's a demand for service or product, then just from a business standpoint you'd like to find a way to serve that demand," he said.

September 16, 2005

## **WELFARE CASELOADS SLIGHTLY RISE**

Cash assistance welfare caseloads rose by nearly 1,000 cases in August, ending at 78,234 cases, up from 77,408 cases in July, said a report released Friday by the Department of Human Services. July's caseload was up by 125 cases over the month of June.

The August cases represented 212,289 people, 2,353 more than the 209,936 covered by cash assistance in July.

Again, about 34 percent of targeted cases had some earned income and 57 percent of all cases were exempt from work requirements. And about 13 percent have exceeded the 60-month limit on federal assistance.

Like cash assistance cases, food assistance cases continued to climb to 486,248 cases from 479,565 in July. Caseloads in that program have been climbing steadily through 2005.

But while other programs rose in numbers, childcare assistance cases decreased for the second straight month, while the number of children served has gone up. There were 61,976 cases for August, which served 123,075 children, down from 63,769 cases for July with 122,415. There were 65,438 cases for June with 123,785 children served.

Department spokeswoman Maureen Sorbet has said that number is unstable, and the frequent rising and falling of the program's cases is seemingly unrelated to any recent policy changes.



## **Program focuses on foster care stability**

### **Macomb one of first to embrace Family to Family.**

PUBLISHED: September 11, 2005

By Chad Selweski  
Macomb Daily Staff Writer

Jen Gorski of Richmond entered Michigan's foster care system at age 12 and, after being shuffled to a few different locations, she was sent to a residential center in Grand Rapids.

A Roseville native, she was whisked away to other side of the state, to an unfamiliar city, too far for friends or relatives to visit.

"That was nerve-racking because I didn't know anyone out there," she said. "I was put into a situation where there were 750 kids in my high school freshman class. It would have been nice to stay here, in the same school, to graduate from there."

Now 18, Gorski's life has taken a turn for the better -- she graduated in June from Richmond High School, she was the first runner-up in the Miss Richmond pageant, she has a job, she's living on her own and is taking nursing classes at Baker College. But she still wishes that a program like Family to Family existed when her odyssey began.

Family to Family is a program that emphasizes stability by placing foster children in their community, allowing them to remain in their current school, and maintaining contact with their family. The state launched the program in 2001 and Macomb was one of the first counties to participate. On Thursday, officials declared the Macomb program a success, doubling the number of foster care families in the county to more than 200 and allowing more kids to remain close to home. In the past, many Macomb kids were shipped out to other counties due to lack of placement options. "The concepts and strategies of Family to Family were so simple and made so much sense," said Angelo Nicholas, director of the Macomb County Department of Human Services. "We really are making better decisions. And we have access to resources we never knew about."

Those resources are located right in the communities where "troubled families" exist, resulting in many foster children. Nicholas' department, which oversees the care for 850 children, realized that the biggest percentage of its foster care kids were coming from Warren and Roseville but those same cities, on a proportionate basis, provided the fewest foster

homes.

That changed when the department tapped into local resources like those provided at the Mt. Calvary Church's Family Community Center in south Warren. The church center provides counseling and parenting classes for at-risk families, child care, literacy classes, tutoring, mentoring and a food pantry. They are also recruiting foster families to care for the area's displaced children.

Meriann Habarek, the center's community liaison, said the large menu of services grew out of a church survey conducted in the surrounding neighborhoods, in the Van Dyke and Nine Mile Road area, which assumed that crime would be the residents' No. 1 concern. Instead, Mt. Calvary discovered that a lack of social services was the top worry of the residents who represented the church's potential congregation.

"We came to find out that 'those people' are 'we people,'" Habarek said.

At a press conference held at Mt. Calvary, state Department of Human Services Director Marianne Udow praised Macomb County's embrace of the Family to Family approach. Udow said the program is now in place in 34 counties and may be a fixture in all 83 counties, serving Michigan's 19,000 children in foster care, within three years.

"This is entirely and fundamentally a reform effort," she said.

The department director said the state is determined to end a system where some foster children have been shuffled through 10 to 20 placements, making them "traumatized by the system" created to protect them.

Family to Family emphasizes keeping kids in their home, as long as they are safe, or placing them in a nearby foster home, which allows them to stay in their current school.

Even if the human services department determines that a child must be removed from their home, the "birth parents" play a larger role in the child's future, often working together with the foster family.

# Close prison, create problems?

Grand Rapids Press Editorial

Sunday, September 18, 2005

Gov. Jennifer Granholm mustn't be locked into a decision to shut the state's prison at Baldwin. Her administration's own inmate calculations indicate that the 480-bed Lake County facility will be needed indefinitely.

The better course would be in renegotiating the privately-owned prison's contract, shifting the lockup away from the maximum-security terms under which it now operates. The alternative, shutting the doors, runs counter to the Department of Corrections' own needs projections. The prison system has a capacity of 49,620 inmates. At present, 98.6 percent of those spaces are filled. The DOC's 2005 projection, done early this year, shows the system running out of beds this fall. By Sept. 2006, capacity will need to be 50,956 -- up 1,336 from now.

The DOC has hoped to temper the acceleration of inmate arrivals -- reducing space needs by 500 beds next year -- by getting the Legislature to relax criminal sentencing guidelines. The idea would be to move more offenders into county jails and such alternatives as half-way houses and probation. But a detailed proposal has yet to even be presented.

The Baldwin prison, formally the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility, opened in 1999 to house violent male offenders under age 17. A change in state law was expected to produce a surge of such individuals into the prison system. That bulge never occurred, so the Baldwin prison has been used to house teen-agers through age 19. And though it provides maximum-security, only about 10 percent of the inmates deserve that level of protection. A state Auditor General's report in May ranked the prison as among the system's most costly. The report, like estimates by the Senate and House fiscal agencies, figures the annual savings of closing the prison at \$7.5 million. The DOC pegs the savings at \$17.8 million, but that amount hinges on the department's dubious claim that it can house the Baldwin inmates elsewhere at virtually no added cost.

The governor should look at the \$7.5 million, which amounts to less than one half of one percent of the DOC's annual budget of some \$1.7 billion. Every taxpayer dollar is precious, but the state has a duty to care for the future, too. The relatively tiny sum to be saved in the Baldwin closing could easily and quickly be offset by rising prisoner numbers, construction costs elsewhere and perhaps by the necessity for releases to avert illegal crowding.

The Legislature included funds for the prison in the budget, pointing to other opportunities for savings. Ms. Granholm has said she will veto the Baldwin money. The effect would be to break two contracts with the Florida-based owner and operator of the prison. The state could do so without penalty except to its reputation as a reliable business partner.

A big loser would be the community of Baldwin and surrounding Lake County, which has a 13 percent jobless rate and is one of the poorest counties in the state. The prison is the county's largest taxpayer and generates jobs for 229 workers. The county invested heavily in providing roads, sewer and other services to accommodate the prison.

The Baldwin prison is the state's only privately run prison, a fact that has made it a target of the union that represents guards at all other Michigan prisons. The union says it has pressed the governor on the matter. Politics in such a decision would hardly be a first in Lansing, of course.

But Ms. Granholm does have a duty to look further in making this decision. The costs at Baldwin do argue for renegotiating the contract there. But an expanding state prison population -- and the foreseeable risk of an overflow and early releases -- doesn't argue for closing a sizable prison.

# Protection helps, but stopping domestic violence starts with stopping batterers

Sunday, September 18, 2005

BY GEOFF LARCOM Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

The death of Jennifer Bennett of Superior Township last week was the second death of a young woman in the last four months that area police have tied to a former boyfriend. Barbara Niess said the tragedy points up the need to quickly bring area officials together to look at the systems in place to try to prevent such crimes from happening again.

**Q. What can people do to protect themselves in such cases?**

A. A better question is how to stop batterers from continuing to batter.

Our community has made some major strides in that direction, with the establishment of programs such as SafeHouse Center, having a county prosecutor who cares passionately about ending domestic violence, and many other systems in law enforcement, health care and social services who reach out to those affected by domestic violence.

The fact that we have community leaders willing to take a stand with us against domestic violence is crucial.

**Q. Are there specific factors that contribute to a situation escalating and ending in domestic violence?**

A. I think the question is, "What can we do (that ensures) assailants will not participate in the violence?"

We're trying to end the beginning of domestic violence. It's not just one solitary instance. It's not just a word or a motion. It is a pattern of controlling behavior that develops.

The only way it can stop is if the assailant chooses not to be a batterer.

**Q. You said this week you would bring people together to talk about how to continue to address problem in as broad a fashion as possible. Have you begun that process?**

A: Starting Wednesday morning, I began calling my colleagues in health care, in law enforcement, in prosecution and in the social services. I said, "We need to get together on this." We'll be asking: What can we improve upon? What's important to us? I've already seen a great response from all around.

**Q. What are the key things the public does not understand about domestic violence?**

A. There are lots of myths.

One myth is that it's a mental health situation. That's not true. The type of power and control (batterers) exert over the victim; it's a learned behavior. It's possible to unlearn that behavior. It has to be their choice not to do it anymore.

Another myth is that it's not that big a deal, or is just a family matter, and something that the community should not get involved in.

People say, "Why should I call police?" No, no, no, no, no. That's not the right approach. Take a stand. If you suspect something - do something, call SafeHouse Center, or call the police. It is absolutely the community's responsibility to do something.

We provide services to more than 3,000 people a year. It does affect everybody.

Get involved with SafeHouse. Talk to your civic group or church group. One of the hardest things when a homicide occurs because of domestic violence is that it sends home the message that the batterers have more resources than we who are trying to end domestic violence do.

**Q. Is the personal protection order law effective?**

A. Generally, I always, always, encourage survivors to seek out personal protection orders. It protects the person and sets up a train of information. It's not just up to SafeHouse (to help out), we also look to our community partners to help survivors.

**Q. What resources are available to people who find themselves in a situation where they feel threatened?**

A. Call SafeHouse Center (at (734) 995-5444) or check our Web site at [www.safehousecenter.org](http://www.safehousecenter.org). Call 911 if it's an emergency. Reach out to a trusted friend or colleague. Mostly, make sure you talk to someone.

News staff reporter Geoff Larcom can be reached at (734) 994-6838 or [glarcom@annarbornews.com](mailto:glarcom@annarbornews.com).

Lansing State Journal

Letters

September 19, 2005

## **Women, on guard**

Do not ignore the signs of domestic violence, sexual abuse, emotional harassment, name calling, intimidation, unwanted sexual advances, pushing, shoving, isolation, jealousy, controlling behavior, alcohol or drug abuse. Threats of any kind are among the red flags that need immediate attention.

Learn and recognize the early signs. Don't pretend. Take action to remove yourself from abuse before you get in so deep it is difficult to leave safely.

You do not have to tolerate it. End the silence and shame about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Women with might - take back the night.

Sue Bedell

Empowered Women's Coalition

DeWitt

# Forum set to study solutions for uninsured

GENESEE COUNTY

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Friday, September 16, 2005

By Shantell M. Kirkendoll skirkendoll@flintjournal.com • 810.766.6366

GENESEE COUNTY - Katherine Koepke, a police communications operator, is trained to help those in crisis, but is not sure what would happen if she had one of her own.

She does not have health insurance. She's always worked, like many of the 57,000 county residents who are uninsured. State officials are coming to Flint on Tuesday to look at ways to bridge the gap of bringing in a paycheck without health coverage.

"We want to communicate with local residents directly to learn more about the true impact the lack of health insurance has on individuals, families and communities," said Janet Olszewski, director of the state Department of Community Health.

A public forum called the Health Care Listening Tour will be from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Riverfront Character Inn in downtown Flint.

Local host Greater Flint Health Coalition expects to bring together lawmakers, doctors, hospital administrators and the community to talk about access to health insurance.

For Koepke, a college graduate with a degree in criminal justice and sociology, it means simply not going to the doctor often and paying a price when she does. The last time was a few years ago for strep throat.

The antibiotic prescribed to treat the infection - she's allergic to the cheap, effective penicillin - cost \$120 for six pills, which she paid on her own.

When Koepke reaches more than 1,000 hours of work, she will be eligible for health insurance. Until then, she worries.

"When you're young, you think you're invincible, but as you get older, you start worrying about your health," she said. "When I look at a job now, I'm paying attention to benefits and pension, not just what I take home each paycheck."

Living without health insurance is a chronic way of life. In surveys compiled by the Genesee Health Plan, 52 percent have been uninsured for more than a year, and 38 percent are parents of young children.

The public and privately funded health plan is run locally and covers doctor visits, but not hospital stays or surgeries for low-income adults.

"Hopefully, the meeting will help define our community's perspective about the problem of the uninsured and bring further attention to the plight of the uninsured at the state and federal level," said Linda Hamacher, vice president and executive director of GHP.

## QUICK TAKE

Health Care  
Listening Tour  
State officials will  
host a public forum  
from 4-7 p.m.  
Tuesday at  
Riverfront  
Character Inn in  
downtown Flint as  
it works on a  
project to be  
completed in 2006  
to care for the  
uninsured.



Residents like Peggy Farrington, 41, of Flint need more than a doctor's visit to get well again. She lost her job and insurance while recovering from a debilitating back injury. She can't afford the physical therapy or the surgery she needs to stabilize her backbone. "I don't want to be on disability," she said. "I'd rather be working."

# Premium for Basic Medicare Increasing 13% Next Year

The New York Times

By ROBERT PEAR

Published: September 17, 2005

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16 - The Bush administration announced on Friday that the basic Medicare premium would shoot up next year 13 percent, to \$88.50 a month, mainly because of the increased use of doctors' services.

Many beneficiaries will pay an additional premium for the new prescription drug benefit, expected to average \$32 a month. So the combined premiums for doctors' services, outpatient hospital care and prescription drugs will average slightly more than \$120 a month.

Medicare provides coverage for 42 million people who are 65 and older or disabled. In most cases, Medicare premiums are deducted from monthly Social Security checks. The average monthly Social Security benefit for retired workers is \$955 this year. The amount for 2006 will be announced next month and will probably approach \$1,000.

Kirsten A. Sloan, a health policy analyst at AARP, the big lobby for older Americans, noted that the basic Medicare premium was increasing by nearly \$30 a month, or 51 percent, from 2003 to 2006.

Doctors are billing Medicare for longer, more intensive office visits, more laboratory tests and more frequent and complex imaging procedures.

But doctors said that much of the increase in Medicare spending also resulted from research breakthroughs, new drugs and technology approved for coverage and cancer and diabetes screenings encouraged by the government.

The 2006 premium will be \$10.30 more than the current monthly premium. The premium, now \$78.20 a month, is calculated according to a complex formula set by law. The premium was \$66.60 in 2004 and \$58.70 in 2003.

Herb Kuhn, a senior official at the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, expressed concern about the growth in spending on doctors' services, laboratory tests and outpatient procedures.

"Medicare needs to move away from a system that pays simply for more services, regardless of their quality or impact on beneficiary health," Mr. Kuhn said. "The current system is not sustainable."

The Bush administration has endorsed the idea of "pay for performance" and is searching for ways to measure doctors' performance in treating Medicare patients.

Mr. Kuhn said he did not know how much of the increase in Medicare spending might be for unnecessary care.

"We're still trying to understand how much value we're getting for that," he said.

The chief Medicare actuary, Richard S. Foster, said the premiums paid by beneficiaries covered one-fourth of the cost of benefits under Part B of Medicare. Those benefits include the services of doctors and other health care professionals, X-rays, diagnostic tests, some home health services and drugs given to patients in doctors' offices.

Grace-Marie Turner, president of the Galen Institute, a research center that advocates free-market health policies, predicted that the premium increase would "create a political firestorm."

"Some areas of the country are seriously overusing health care," Mrs. Turner said. "Everyone winds up paying the price for that. What do you do? Put more price controls into the Medicare program? That clearly has not worked. Consumers need more incentives and more power to manage the costs of their care."

Dr. J. James Rohack, a trustee of the American Medical Association, said doctors were saving money for Medicare by keeping patients out of the hospital. To do that, Dr. Rohack said, physicians have to see patients more frequently to manage aggressively chronic conditions like diabetes and congestive heart failure.

Moreover, Dr. Rohack said, many beneficiaries will have lower out-of-pocket health costs next year because of the added drug coverage.

"Even though the premium for Part B of Medicare is going up, many patients will see net savings of hundreds of dollars a month," said Dr. Rohack, a cardiologist in Temple, Tex., whose patients often spend \$300 to \$400 a month on medications.

Ms. Sloan of AARP agreed that "there will be savings from the drug benefit."

But she added, "Those savings could be eroded by increases in premiums, deductibles and co-payments elsewhere in the Medicare program."

Under federal law, low-income people are eligible for extra help.

"About one-fourth of beneficiaries can receive assistance that pays for their entire Part B premium," Mr. Kuhn said.

Many people eligible for the help do not receive it, because they are unaware it exists, are reluctant to apply for it or find applying too difficult.

Beneficiaries have to pay annual deductibles before Medicare pays for doctors' services. The deductible, \$100 a year from 1991 to 2004, increased to \$110 this year and will go to \$124 in 2006.

Higher Medicare payments to health maintenance organizations and other private plans are also contributing to the higher premiums.

The government often spends more for a beneficiary in a private plan than it would for the same person in traditional fee-for-service Medicare. Federal officials expect that more people will enroll in private plans next year, in part because such plans offer extra benefits, including more generous drug coverage than the standard drug benefit.

Many Democrats object to what they describe as overpayments to private plans. Senator Jeff Bingaman, Democrat of New Mexico, recently introduced a bill that would cut Medicare payments to private plans and use the savings to reduce premiums for beneficiaries.

"With home heating prices expected to rise this winter, many seniors will find it very hard to absorb the higher premium" in 2006, Mr. Bingaman said Friday. "Rather than charging higher premiums, I would like to see deep cuts in the overpayments to H.M.O.'s."

The new premium was computed on the assumption that current law continues unchanged.

Because of a quirk in the law, doctors face a 4.4 percent cut in the Medicare payment next year for each service they provide. Doctors are lobbying Congress to block the cut and to allow a modest increase in the fees. If Congress does so, Medicare spending on doctors' services will rise more than expected, and that will, in turn, drive up premiums more than expected in future years.

Published September 18, 2005  
[ From the Towne Courier ]

## **'Cleaning woman' targets township seniors for theft**

LANSING TWP. — An aggressive woman has twice stolen money during daylight hours from elderly residents in their homes, Lansing Township Police Chief Kay Hoffman said.

Posing as someone who will do household chores, the woman entered two homes Monday, Sept. 13 and stole a purse from a woman in her 90s, and a wallet at a home occupied by an elderly couple, Hoffman said.

She said homeowners should not allow strangers into their homes and to call the police if someone is persistent and causes suspicion.

Anyone with information about the thefts are asked to call the Lansing Township police department, 485-1700.

Hoffman said she did not know how the suspect knew the homes were occupied by elderly residents.

The first theft occurred about 12 p.m. in the Ravenswood subdivision, and the second took place between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. at a home south of Michigan, east of Waverly Road.

In both instances, the woman used distraction to commit the thefts.

"A man called around 11 a.m. and asked if the elderly woman wanted to have her windows washed, and the woman told him she wasn't interested," Hoffman said.

An hour later a white female in her mid-20s to mid-30s, five foot to five foot three inches, heavy set, a round face with her hair pulled back arrived at the woman's door and said she was there to wash her windows.

After the woman declined the offer, the suspect asked to enter her home to count her windows and to give a price for possible work in the future.

The first victim told police the suspect was driving a full-sized black pickup truck, in the second theft, no vehicle was seen.

In the second incident, the suspect entered an elderly couple's home without permission and offered to perform odd jobs.

"She was very persistent," Hoffman said.

The couple refused the offer, but the woman asked to give them her name and number for future work.

"When they went to get a piece of paper to write her name and number down, the suspect took a wallet," Hoffman said.

Friday, September 16, 2005

## Winter heating prices scare states

By Eric Kelderman, Stateline.org Staff Writer

Sticker shock at the gas pump isn't the only energy problem confronting states after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast early this month.

The storm has shut down oil rigs and refineries in the area, sending gasoline prices toward the \$3-a-gallon mark and spurring dozens of states to consider curbing the costs of driving. But it also reduced the region's output of natural gas by 38 percent -- about 7 percent of the nation's total -- according to the U.S. Department of Energy. That has increased already high costs of the popular fuel, with predictions of 37 percent to 70 percent increases in some parts of the country.

The fear of a natural gas spike is spurring officials to seek more money to help low-income residents pay for heating this winter, while others are encouraging energy efficiency, and in the case of Connecticut, challenging the way that utilities charge customers.

Gasoline costs are foremost on state lawmakers' minds since the hurricane hit the oil-rich region. Georgia already has suspended the state's gasoline tax, and West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin (D) has promised to prevent an annual increase in his state's gas tax.

In addition, Democratic governors in Delaware, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have asked President Bush to take action against skyrocketing gas prices, and 45 states' attorneys general are making inquiries into potential price-gouging. In Florida, the Department of Children and Families proposed temporarily suspending monthly visits to nearly 50,000 foster children to save on driving costs, but Gov. Jeb Bush (R) nixed that idea the day after it was reported in the media.

But the storm's impact on the natural gas supply also is emerging as a problem that could sting states across the country.

Fifty-two percent of heated U.S. homes use natural gas, and demand has grown steadily as electric utilities increasingly turn to natural gas as a cleaner-burning alternative to coal. But domestic supplies of natural gas have leveled off, and prices have more than doubled in the past three years. Now, the federal energy department estimates that the storm will cost average consumers 37 percent to 50 percent more than they paid for their heat last winter, and parts of the upper Midwest could see a 70 percent increase for natural gas.

The costs of other heating fuels also are projected to rise: heating oil up to 31 percent more; propane up to 40 percent more and electric heating up as much as 17 percent.

"The bottom line is, the era of cheap energy is behind us," said state Rep. Carl Holmes (R) from Liberty, Kan., a vice chairman of the Energy and Electric Utilities Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Scott Pattison, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers, said higher natural gas costs are going to cut into states' bottom lines. "Overall, as part of the state budget, it's not huge at this point, but we certainly expect that to change," he said.

One pressing concern for states will be low-income residents who need help paying their heating bills this winter. Higher prices for heating fuels could push more people to seek that

assistance, said Mark Wolfe, spokesman for the National Energy Assistance Directors Association. The organization represents state officials who manage the federal Low-Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grants.

Heating bills are projected to rise \$611 on average this winter -- more than most low-income families receive in aid, Wolfe said. His association is pushing Congress to increase the amount of LIHEAP money available to the states -- from \$1.9 billion currently to the full \$3.4 billion authorized in the federal budget.

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D) supports more federal money but also has proposed an additional \$9 million in state taxpayers' dollars to help the poor pay their heating bills.

Schweitzer also wants the state to expand programs to weatherize homes and conserve energy.

Pennsylvania also is stressing conservation and has scheduled workshops to help municipal governments reduce their energy costs.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal is challenging the way that utilities in his region charge for power -- a system that sometimes allows coal and nuclear power plants to link their price to higher oil and natural gas costs. Blumenthal's office estimates that change could save consumers and businesses up to \$970 million over the next year.

Ellen Foley, a spokeswoman for the region's wholesale power market, said the real problem is that there are not enough diverse sources of energy: Oil and natural gas now provide more than 40 percent of the Northeast's electricity.

*Send your comments on this story to: [letters@stateline.org](mailto:letters@stateline.org). Selected reader feedback will be posted in the Letters to the editor section.*

Contact Eric Kelderman at: [ekelderman@stateline.org](mailto:ekelderman@stateline.org).

The Boston Globe

## **New fight brewing on welfare overhaul** **Liberals oppose Romney job plan**

By Scott S. Greenberger, Globe Staff | September 18, 2005

With a federal deadline fast approaching, liberal state lawmakers and social services advocates are gearing up for a fight this week over efforts by Governor Mitt Romney and a House panel to dramatically increase the number of welfare recipients who have to work, including thousands of disabled people, mothers with young children, and women in the last stage of pregnancy.

Some 46,300 families are on welfare in Massachusetts, which has work requirements and time limits for benefits that are among the most lenient in the nation. About 11,600 recipients are required to work.

Romney's plan would roughly double that number, eliminating exemptions for pregnant women in the third trimester, mothers with children between 1 and 2 years old, and about 5,600 people who are considered disabled under state standards but not under federal ones. The House Ways and Means Committee cleared a plan last week that also would force many more recipients to work, though not as many as Romney's plan would.

Romney said Friday that "denying people the opportunity and obligation to work is shortsighted."

"The principle of encouraging work with welfare is so clearly established that Massachusetts shouldn't run from it, but should embrace it," Romney said. "The rest of the nation embraced welfare reform, including work, some years ago. It's time for us to do the same thing."

But in an interview with the Globe last week, House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi said Romney's proposal "cuts [welfare recipients] off at the knees."

In 1995, when the Bay State shifted to a welfare system requiring some recipients to work, it was a pioneer. But a year later Congress overhauled the federal welfare law, and Massachusetts has been operating under a waiver from federal rules since then. That waiver expires at the end of this month, forcing Beacon Hill to act.

John Wagner, the commissioner of the Department of Transitional Assistance, said Romney's plan represents a change in attitude that will help



many people with disabilities. **He argued that the state is not helping recipients by exempting them from work requirements, since those that rely solely on benefits are virtually guaranteed to live in poverty.** Annual welfare benefits total less than \$8,000 for a family of three.

Like Romney's plan, the House version would impose work requirements on mothers with children between 1 and 2 and for pregnant women in the third trimester. But unlike Romney's plan, which would exempt only those people whom the federal government considers to be severely disabled, the House plan would give state caseworkers some discretion in determining who is able to work, and how much.

Both the Romney proposal and the House plan would impose a five-year lifetime limit for receiving benefits. Under current law, families only can receive benefits for two years in any five-year period.

"I don't think this is a soft cushion for them," DiMasi said of the House plan. "It's basically giving them the tools they need so they can create a better life and be better prepared for independence."

Liberal Democrats, who are exerting greater influence in the House since the departure of former House speaker Thomas M. Finneran, will try to amend the bill to preserve at least some of the current exemptions. Representative Robert A. DeLeo, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, said Friday that he plans to meet with some of the panel's leading liberals tomorrow, and he predicted that if the bill is changed it will move in the direction of the status quo, not Romney's plan.

Representative Marie St. Fleur, a Dorchester Democrat who serves on the committee, said she is a strong supporter of requiring welfare recipients to work, and she likes the idea of a five-year time limit on benefits as long as there is a hardship exemption. But St. Fleur is opposed to forcing all women in their last stage of pregnancy to work.

"I have three kids, and I've worked to the very day that I've had to give birth," she said. "But I've had access to quality healthcare. I have plenty of assistance. I have a husband, I have support."

St. Fleur also questioned whether welfare caseworkers are qualified to determine which recipients are too disabled to work. Under the current system, the University of Massachusetts Disabled Evaluation Services sets the state standard.

Senate President Robert E. Travaglini also is pledging to act quickly on a welfare bill. Senator Cynthia S. Creem of Newton, the author of a plan that would preserve the current exemptions, predicted that her approach would prevail in the Senate.

Romney says the changes he is proposing are necessary to put Massachusetts in compliance with stricter federal law. The Republican governor, who is mulling a run for president, also might benefit politically from pushing tougher rules, even if he loses in the Legislature.

But two-dozen states have avoided some federal work requirements and time limits by setting up separate state-funded programs to provide cash assistance to families who would not qualify under federal rules. Under Creem's proposal, Massachusetts would do the same thing.

"Presently we are spending state money on welfare, and we are getting money from the federal government," Creem said. "We can do this without spending any more money. We just have to make sure that some 14,000 people who are exempt now are funded through the state."

Jack Tweedie, a welfare specialist for the National Conference of State Legislatures, confirmed that states following Creem's approach have not had to spend additional state dollars.

When the Massachusetts welfare overhaul was signed into law in February 1995, there were about 103,000 families getting \$693 million per year in cash assistance. Today, 46,300 families get about \$313 million per year.

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